

Message Text

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47

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-11 OMB-01 MMO-01 /087 W

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R 021315Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4378

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3157

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US UK

SUBJECT: INDIAN REACTION TO DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 045314

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT YET BY GOI SPOKESMEN ON THE FEBRUARY 25 SIGNING IN LONDON OF THE DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT. TWO OF DELHI'S SIX ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED A FEBRUARY 27 REUTER ITEM REPORTING THE AGREEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP EDITORIALS BUT THE EVENT HAS OTHERWISE LARGELY GONE UNREPORTED.

2. THE CPI DAILY PATRIOT IN THE FIRST EDITORIAL TO APPEAR FEBRUARY 29 TERMED THE ISLAND "A CONSTANT THREAT TO INDIA'S SECURITY" AND WARNED THE COUNTRY TO "TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIS FORMIDABLE MILITARY THREAT DEVELOPING RIGHT ON ITS DOORSTEP." IN THE ONLY OTHER EDITORIAL THE INDIAN EXPRESS MARCH 1 CALLED THE U.S./ U.K. EXPLANATION FOR "MILITARIZING DIEGO GARCIA" AN

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"EXPLODED EXCUSE" SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIATION

OF THE INSINUATION ABOUT RUSSIAN BASES AND FACILITIES
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. AND "EVEN IF THERE IS SOME
GENUINE REASON FOR THIS SUSPICION NO ONE WILL SAY THAT
THE SITING OF THE WEAPONS IN BERBERA WAS DONE BEFORE
THE BRITISH USHERED THE AMERICANS INTO DIEGO GARCIA."
MOREOVER THE SOVIETS WILL NOW BE JUSTIFIED IN CALLING
ANY FUTURE ACTION BY THEM "A COUNTERMEASURE". THE
INDIAN EXPRESS CONCLUDED BY CHARGING THAT THE AMERICANS
AND BRITISH "HAVE PROCLAIMED BY THEIR LATEST AGREEMENT
THAT THEY CARE NOTHING FOR THE VIEWS OF THOSE DIRECTLY
AFFECTED OR FOR RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS."
SAXBE

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